A TEXTBOOK OF X-RAY DIAGNOSIS—By British Authors—Third Edition—Vol. 1—Head and Neck—Edited by S. Cochrane Shanks, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.B., Director, X-Ray Diagnostic Department, University College Hospital, London; and Peter Kerley, C.V.O., C.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.P., F.F.R., D.M.R.E., Director, X-Ray Department, Westminster Hospital; Radiologist, Royal Chest Hospital, London. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1957. 521 pages, 521 illustrations, $18.00.

The third edition of this valuable four-volume textbook of x-ray diagnosis is now in process of completion. The present volume, Volume I, contains no changes in section or chapter headings since the second edition published in 1951. However, there are five new contributors, almost 100 additional illustrations, and approximately 100 additional pages.

As previously, the sections deal with the central nervous system, the teeth and jaws, the eye, the accessory nasal sinuses, and the ear and temporal bone.

The major changes since the second edition are in the chapters dealing with ventriculography, encephalography, and cerebral angiography.

Positive contrast media are illustrated for use in ventriculography of the third and fourth ventricles and the aqueduct. The authors prefer Myodil for this region.

To secure more complete air filling of the ventricular and subarachnoid spaces with encephalography, the authors have apparently modified their former technique in accordance with the recommendations of Lindgren.

The chapter on cerebral angiography is considerably improved, especially in the section dealing with vertebral arteriography.

The work will continue to be of use to radiologists, neurologists, and the many other specialty groups interested in diseases of the head and neck. The edition carries this very appropriate prologue quoted from Macbeth:

"... the times have been,
That, when the brains were out, the man would die,
And there an end; but now they rise again."

L. H. GARLAND, M.B.

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THE PHYSIOLOGY OF INDUCED HYPOTHERMIA. Proceedings of a Symposium, October 28-29, 1955. Robert D. Dripps, Chairman and Editor. Washington, D. C. National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council, 1956. 447 pages.

A much wider field is covered by this book than its title would lead one to expect. It begins with a series of papers covering the general metabolic effects of hypothermia and continues with its effects on specific areas such as cardiovascular, endocrine, hematologic, renal, hepatic, and nervous systems. Special sections are devoted to myocardial irritability and the clinical applications of hypothermia to neurosurgery, shock, myocardial infarction and cardiac surgery. Finally, the advantages and disadvantages of the various techniques of inducing hypothermia are carefully laid out. It can be seen, therefore, that this book covers the whole field of hypothermia and it has particular value in that at the end of each section of articles there is a summing up of the previous papers, in which inconsistencies are discussed and assessed. This is of special value to the general reader, who might otherwise be carried away by the enthusiasm for one theory or technique. Perhaps the most useful part of the book for the general reader is the series of articles on the effects of hypothermia on the specific systems. These have been exhaustively covered with wide reviews of the previous literature. The conclusions of some of the discussants can be called to question, particularly the enthusiasm for combined hypothermia and extracorporeal circulation, which would seem to incorporate the worst of both worlds.

MESENCHYMAL DISEASES IN CHILDHOOD—22nd Ross Pediatric Research Conference, Ross Laboratories, Columbus 16, Ohio, 1957. 103 pages.

This is the twenty-second of a series of conferences subsidized (but not commercialized) by the Ross Laboratories, each devoted to a single broad topic of current interest and in most instances constituting an authoritative monograph. They have been of notably uniform excellence, which is perhaps not surprising when the expertness of the contributors is taken into account, all of whom speak from firsthand knowledge.

To the present volume, consisting of 104 pages, there are some 39 contributors, under the chairmanship of Vincent C. Kelley of the University of Utah College of Medicine. The term "mesenchymal" was correctly preferred to the more commonly used "collagen" to designate a group of diseases affecting the mesoblastic tissues in general rather than a single constituent of them. Among these are rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, dermatomyositis, nephrosis and nephritis, anaphylactoid purpura, and rheumatic fever. All discussions emphasize the newer discoveries, some still in progress; for example, the L forms of bacteria and their possible relation to rheumatoid arthritis, microscopy of the kidney in nephritis, nephrosis and lupus erythematosus which has clarified so remarkably the basic renal pathology of these diseases. General considerations—biochemical, hormonal, infectious, enzymatic, metabolic, psychosomatic—are dealt with concisely and effectively. A final presentation of the serious complications of steroid therapy is pertinent.

This monograph will be of interest and value not only to pediatricians but also internists, general practitioners and others desiring to bring their information up to date on an important group of diseases.

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BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE AND THE INTRODUCTION OF VACCINATION: A Reappraisal—John B. Blake, University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, 1957, 95 pp., $4.00.

John Blake, assistant historian of the Rockefeller Institute, notes that although Waterhouse has generally been given great credit and honor for the introduction of vaccination in the United States, he was not so highly regarded at home, in his own day. His reputation was built up mainly in later years by authors whose principal sources were Waterhouse's own words.

Blake examines additional source materials, both correspondence and newspaper files. While giving full credit for Waterhouse's contributions to the dissemination of vaccinia, he shows him as an egotist who not only sought to inflate his own reputation at the expense of others, but also attempted to establish a monopoly in vaccination for his personal profit.

While one has the feeling that in his effort to set the balance straight, Blake may have painted Waterhouse in tones too black, he certainly makes it clear that the picture of an inspired pioneer struggling for mankind against a reactionary and venal medical profession is not wholly true. Our understanding of progress in medicine and public health is enhanced by this book.

Whether or not the reader is interested in the meanings of history for the guidance of today's decisions, he will enjoy this well written, handsomely printed story of a heated controversy, and the portrayal of professional life at the beginning of the nineteenth century. He also may find some consolation for his distress about the handling of recently introduced immunizing agents, observing that in the present day, we are at least not worse than our forebears of 1800.

RODNEY R. BEARD, M.D.